

Appl. No. : 09/888,280
Filed : June 21, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-27 were pending. With the present Response, Claims 1-14 and 23-27 are canceled and Claims 28-33 are added; therefore Claims 15, 17-22 and 28-33 remain pending for consideration. In essence, the present amendment removes certain claims which were erroneously amended in the Amendment dated February 3, 2005, and provides a fresh response to the Office Action mailed October 22, 2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his thorough review of the present application and for allowing Claims 15 and 17-22 as amended in the Amendment Dated February 3, 2005.

New Claims 28-33

Prior to entry of the Amendment Dated February 3, 2005, in the Office Action mailed October 22, 2004, the Examiner indicated that then pending Claims 16-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New Claims 28-33 added in the present amendment correspond to allowable Claims 17-22 as they existed at the time of the Office Action mailed October 22, 2004. Each of then pending Claims 17-19 and 21 has been rewritten in independent form in the form of new Claims 28-30 and 32, including all of the limitations of their base claim, and are therefore believed to be allowable. Original Claims 20 and 22 depended from original Claims 19 and 21, respectively, and are therefore allowable as well in the form of new Claims 31 and 33.

Drawings

A set of replacement drawing sheets to replace all previously-filed drawing sheets is Attached to this Response in the Appendix. All replacement drawing sheets are labeled "Replacement Sheet." The replacements drawing sheets are provided to overcome the Examiner's objections to the margins and character of lines, numbers and letters of the previously-filed drawing sheets. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw his objection to the drawings.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain or require further clarification the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 9/15/05

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

Proposed new Claims 28 through 33.

Identification of Claims Discussed

15, 28-30 and 32

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

None.

Proposed Amendments

Objected-to claims from the October 22, 2004 Office Action will be rewritten into independent form and other claims will be cancelled.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

The Examiner issued an Office Action on October 22, 2004, in which certain claims were rejected in view of the prior art, and other claims were objected to. Applicant filed a Response dated February 3, 2005, which resolved the prior art rejections, but gave rise to certain rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The §112 rejections were imposed in the Office Action dated June 16, 2005.

Applicant plans to file an Amendment which will cancel the now rejected claims added or amended by the February 3, 2005 Amendment, and rewrite the "objected" claims from the October 22, 2004 Office Action into condition for allowance.

Thus, Applicant does not believe that any questions of patentability remain, and that the application will be placed into condition for allowance.

Results of Interview

Applicant will amend the Claims as discussed, submit corrected drawings and an Information Disclosure Statement.